REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable consideration of this application as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 5, 6, 8 and 10 are active in the present application; Claims 5, 8, and 10 are amended; and Claim 9 is canceled without prejudice or disclaimer by the present amendment.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 5, 6 and 9 were objected to; Claims 5 and 6 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,321,569 to Sakai; Claims 8 and 10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by JP 8-55318A to Naito; and Claim 9 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,831,796 to Nishida.

Regarding the objection to the claims, Claim 5 is amended as suggested in the outstanding Office Action and Claim 9 is canceled. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested those objections be withdrawn.

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection of Claims 5 and 6 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by Sakai.

Amended Claim 5 is directed to a base of a magnetic recording reproducing apparatus. The base includes a tilt stand integrally formed with the base and having a mounting surface tilted to mount a drum thereon. The mounting surface has a shaft mounting hole which is formed to be of a size corresponding to the size of the shaft of the drum and into which the shaft of the drum is inserted to regulate the position of the shaft of the drum.

In a non-limiting example, Figure 5 shows a drum mounting portion 141 of a base 12 of a magnetic recording reproducing apparatus. The base 12 includes a tilt stand 142 that is integrally formed with the base 12. The tilt stand 142 has a mounting surface 144 tilted at a predetermined angle to mount a drum thereon. The mounting surface 144 has a shaft mounting hole 145. The size of the shaft mounting hole 145 corresponds to the size of the

shaft 131 of the drum. Further, as shown in Applicants' Figures 7-9, the shaft 131 of the drum is inserted into the shaft mounting hole 145 and the shaft mounting hole 145 regulates the position of the shaft 131 of the drum.

According to this arrangement, the position of the drum is determined in the horizontal plane with the center reference utilizing the shaft of the drum. So, it is possible to obtain sufficient mounting accuracy of the drum as well as secure the linearity of a lead even if the surface accuracy on the mounting surface is low.[1]

Applicants respectfully submit that Sakai does not teach or suggest a tilt stand formed integrally with the base of a magnetic recording reproducing apparatus. Applicants note that Sakai only indicates an unlabeled tilt stand in FIG. 7, and that unlabeled tilt stand is a member separate from the drum base 11. Hence, Applicants respectfully submit that Sakai does not teach or suggest a "base comprising a tilt stand integrally formed with the base," as recited in amended Claim 5.

Further, Applicants respectfully submit that Sakai does not teach or suggest a mounting surface that has a shaft mounting hole which is formed to be of a size corresponding to the size of the shaft of the drum. Alternatively, Sakai FIG. 7 only shows a rotary magnetic drum assembly in which the shaft and the drum are inserted into an unlabeled mounting hole. By inserting the shaft and the drum into the mounting hole in Sakai, it is impossible to regulate the position of the drum by this mounting hole only. Thus, since the base and tilt stand are separate members in Sakai, it is necessary to have an extra assembly task to control the position of the drum. Further, Applicants note that Sakai indicates the position of the drum is not fixed by the shaft but, after inserting the drum assembly and shaft into the hole, the position is regulated by screws 19 and positioning pins 28.[2] Thus, it is respectfully submitted that Sakai does not teach or suggest "a mounting hole which is formed

[1] Specification at page 20, lines 12-24.
[2] Sakai at column 6, lines 29-50.

to be of a size corresponding to the size of the shaft of the drum and into which the shaft of the drum is inserted to regulate the position of the shaft of the drum," as recited in amended Claim 5.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted amended Claim 5 and claims depending therefrom are allowable.

Further, Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection of Claims 8 and 10 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by Naito.

Amended Claim 8 is directed to a base of a magnetic recording reproducing apparatus that includes a tilt stand integrally formed with the base and having a mounting surface tilted to mount a drum thereon. The base also includes a cut and bent portion which is formed by cutting and bending the base and which is provided to the tilt stand such is to be tilted upwards from the mounting surface to retain the drum mounted on the tilt stand to provisionally fix the drum.

Applicants respectfully note that Naito does not teach or suggest a tilt stand integrally formed on the base and having a mounting surface tilted to mount a drum. In FIGs. 1, 4 and 5, Naito indicates a motor substrate 3 (e.g., tilt stand) that is integrally formed on a base. However, the motor substrate of Naito is separate from any base plate that is tilted upwards from the mounting surface to mount the drum. Instead, Naito describes a rotary drum motor 2 that is supported by the motor substrate 3. Hence, Applicants respectfully submit that Naito does not teach or suggest "a tilt stand integrally formed with the base and having a mounting surface tilted to mount a drum thereon," as recited in amended Claim 8.

Further, Applicants respectfully submit that Naito is silent regarding a cut and bent portion that retains a drum mounted on the tilt stand to provisionally fix the drum. As noted above, the tilted motor substrate 3 of Naito holds the rotary drum motor 2 and is separate from the portion that retains the drum. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that

Naito also does not teach or suggest "a cut and bent portion which is formed by cutting and bending the base and which is provided to the tilt stand such as to be tilted upward from the mounting surface to retain the drum mounted on the tilt stand to provisionally fix the drum," as recited in amended Claim 8.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that amended Claim 8 and claims depending therefrom are allowable.

Amended Claim 10 is directed to a drum mounting unit of a magnetic recording reproducing apparatus that includes, *inter alia*, a cut and bent portion formed such as to be tilted upwards from the mounting surface on the tilt stand by cutting and bending the base.

Applicants respectfully submit Naito does not teach or suggest any cut and bent portion formed to be tilted upwards. Rather, Naito shows only a motor substrate 3 (e.g., cut and bent portion) that is bent downwards from the device substrate 5 (e.g., mounting surface). Hence, Applicants respectfully submit that Naito does not teach or suggest "a cut and bent portion formed such as to be tilted upwards from the mounting surface on the tilt stand," as recited in amended Claim 10.

Accordingly, it is believed Claim 10 is also allowable.

Consequently, in light of the above discussion and in view of the present amendment, the present application is believed to be in condition for allowance and an early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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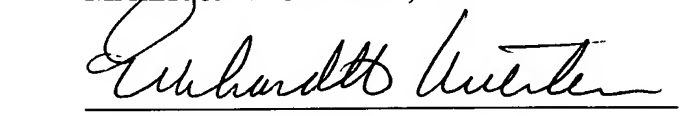

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